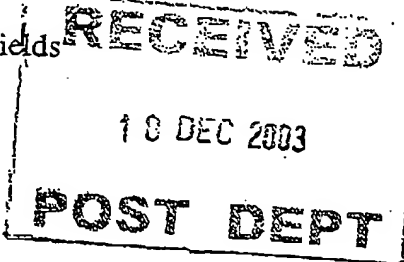




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Your Reference: PJM/GB82445
Application No: GB 0015351.0

8 December 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 27 February 2004

I have re-examined your application in response to your agent's letter of 27 November 2003 and enclose two copies of my further examination report.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the enclosed report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

You should also note that the normal, unextended period allowed for complying fully with the requirements of the Act will end on 27 May 2004. However, if you need extra time to settle any remaining objections you are entitled to extend that period by one month by filing Patents Form 52/77 and fee.

Yours faithfully

Nik Dowell
Examiner

Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Your ref: PJM/GB82445
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Applicant: Hyundai Electronics Industries Co., Ltd

Examiner: Nik Dowell
Tel: 01633 813733
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Patents Act 1977 Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Basis of the examination

1. My examination has taken account of the amendments filed with your agent's letter of 26 November 2003.

Novelty

2. The invention as defined in claims 1 and 6 is not new because it has already been disclosed in the following documents:

- ✓ WO 00/68795 A1* (Network Appliance) see especially page 3, lines 3 to 23
- ✓ WO 00/62138 A1* (Valmet) see especially EP regional number 1166190
- ✓ EP 0913774 A2 (Hitachi) see whole document
- ✓ GB 2236202 A (Sun) See especially figure 1
- ✓ EP 0623878 A2 (Abb) see abstract and figure 1
- US 5432715 A (Shigematsu) see whole document
- ✓ WO 00/77648 A1* (Sony) see abstract

3. All of the above documents show systems for monitoring the status and operation of one or more processors, computers or servers via a network such as is suggested in claim 6. Furthermore '138 has a maintenance management system for a production plant with a service system server (26) which it is thought could readily be applied to a semiconductor factory. A service unit (10) has a data analysis unit (12) and a data bank (13) for collating and analysing data from the service system server transmitted over a secure network. '878 has a display (6) within an operating unit (7) with a multi-coloured LED display (8) to monitor a networked PC system.

No amendment of your claims will be needed in respect of the documents marked * if you can show that the priority date of your invention is not later than the priority date of the relevant disclosure in that document.



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[Examination Report contd.]

Inventive step

4. The invention as defined in claims 1 to 5, 7 to 9 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the documents given above, except those marked *.
5. The application of processor monitoring to a factory arrangement for a semiconductor factory as outlined in claim 1 would seem to be obvious in light of the documents identified (without *) in paragraph 2. The application of known monitoring means to a known factory arrangement would seem to be nothing more than a collocation which would be obvious to the skilled man in the art of factory automation.
6. The information given in claims 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 is directed towards the provisions for indicating the operating status or failure of one or more of the processors in the system being monitored. Whilst the exact means described in these claims is not shown in any of the documents above it is thought that the details given amount to nothing more than design considerations and as such would be obvious to a man skilled in the art of monitoring processor activity.

Clarity

7. It is not clear whether the phrase "semiconductor processing means" in claim 6 refers to a processor used to monitoring a semiconductor factory automation system or a semiconductor wafer manufacturing machine being monitored.